

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 12 are pending in the application.

The purpose of this amendment is to place the claims in appropriate U.S. form and delete the multiple dependent claims in this application, and thereby eliminate excessive claim fees. Such amendments are formal in nature and no new matter is added by any of the above amendments. Entry of this amendment and early examination of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**ALESSANDRO BONATO et al.**

September 9, 2003 By: Martin G. Belisario, Reg No. 25,918  
(Date) *for*

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Enclosure